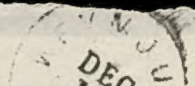
Recd. Dec. 11
ans. " 12.

Reminiscences of
Richard D. Webb.
Copied by A.M.
and sent to Alf. Webb.



Rev. Samuel May

Leicester, Massachusetts

U.S.A.

Weymouth December 10th 1872

My dear Friend

I hasten to thank you for myself & Dora for the "Clue & pencil" which we have duly received — we should not perhaps have seen it, as we do not receive the Magazine regularly but only when we can find it at a Library — to miss many Nos & could have it opened this No. I would thank you a thousand times for this precious tribute to the memory of a friend

so beloved & regretted as was
Richard H. Wells. we read
your admirable article
with no little emotion; it
seemed to set the whole of
that noble & crowded life
anew before us & we deeply
regretted that he should not
pass away without some
American record of all that
he was to Americans & America
I had been looking & hoping
for some notice of his death
& some appreciation of his char-
acter from some one of his many
dear friends, but saw only
a brief & unsatisfactory paragraph
in the "Nation" - Now you have
spoken of him as he was & praised
him as he should be praised

& I only wish that the record might be widely read.

I received in due season your note containing the the painful tidings of our friend's fatal illness, - to soon to be followed by the sad news of his death. I never acknowledged the receipt of your letter as you must know. I tried to do so, but in vain. I was very ill when I got your letter & much distressed by the sad news it brought I should have been glad indeed to see you on that moment but I could not write. I am better now, but still fear you will & am to day not able to say some thing as

I could wish - of all those
wishes that enter my mind as
I think of my long Friend these
with C. D. W. - He was the first
to greet me on my first visit
to the old World & he was
always with me at every arrival
& departure subsequently,
coming over on purpose from
Dublin, though he hated &
feared the Sea - . I have
so many happy reminiscences of
him that I should be glad
to speak of to one who loved him
as you do - but I have little
time or strength now. You
can imagine with what delight
we shared him Paris - & must
have seen many interesting
& famous people that we
were so happy as to know - It
was such a pleasure to him to see

& talk with persons whom
he had known by reputation.
He used to say "I wish to see every
thing - but most of all men
& women" — I wish to see
the odd ways of other countries"
& when I asked him what he
would take at Breakfast
he only said "Give me some
thing I never saw before -
It was so different from the
Americans we met (not many
in those days) who - were all
despising "Frenchies" — longing to
see their own countrymen & eschew
all "French folks" — & who were
starving in the midst of (French)
plenty — & longing for "american food"
all this was very natural perhaps
but R. L. S. was of another stamp.
He loved to be with us in a dummy
Chateau than we both at

Versailles — the "peace Congress"
famous in its day & at which
Victor Hugo then in his prime
presided — was then in progress
& many deputations from
many lands were there — &
we saw more of them I
need not say how much
we enjoyed it or how much
Mr Mills presence added to
our pleasure. Later at
the great exposition in London
at the "World's Fair" we
saw a great deal of him
& his family — we had a
little house in Devonshire
Street, near my Uncle's
there we saw lots of Amherstburg
friends — C R D. Wms much with us
how happy he was showing his
wife & Children the glories

London — to say nothing of the Chrystal Palace with its glass arches — fronting on the green park trees — It was like scenes from the "Arabian Nights entertainments" & I who always had detested ex positions — could only say that it was a fairy tale — That was in 51 —

Years later I had the pleasure of receiving him at Rome in the midst of the antique splendours of the Palazzo Albani. & made him see as much of the Eternal city as could be seen in a month. Those were beautiful days — & there were many interesting persons in

Rome at that time (I suppose it is always the case) & R. D'W was so happy.—
I have two deep regrets in relation to him - I always wished much to see him in Dublin in his own house - but never could fulfil the promise I often made to him & his wife - when I met him in London after my return from Rome in 64 - his wife was lately dead - & I was overpowered with a grief which will never pass away.
The War was in progress & I seemed to have but one interest in life left - & When he came to America I was too ill to promote

his
plans & pleasures as I had
always hoped to do - tho' it
was a great pleasure to see
him & to hope that I should
get stronger. While I
was planning for something
of my old times enjoyment
in his society came his letter
telling me of his sad accident,
& the long confinement
that he endured & the bereave-
ments in his family which
followed darkened & the last
days of his American life sadly.
I think he bore every thing
with the same even patience
after Mrs Webb's death &

was a remarkable &
a gifted woman - perfectly
devoted to her husband whose
character & ability &
instructions she fully under-
stood & appreciated - She
was the complement to
her husband in every way.

He came to us at Richmond
soon after her death & he
had attained then some of
the tranquillity with which
he afterwards suffered the loss
of dear friends. — I was tempted
by the bursts of grief which
would shake his whole frame
& at times overpower him
entirely. — & then, weep aloud
like a suffering child.

we did our best - but there
is no comfort for such grief
I hope he is now joined to
the friends he loved so
much & restored to the
hope who was the joy of his
earthly existence
His death has moved me much - I
never doubted that he would be
fully restored to his usual health
& strength as there seemed to be
no lesion in his case.
I hope to see you soon either
here or in Boston & meanwhile
beg you to pardon my hasty letter
with all its clerical faults
which I know to be so many
that I shrink from
it is the first letter I have written
for three months.
With much love to you
& dear chis May from
Willie & all around

from us all

believe me ever

Most affectionately yours

Caroline Weston

P.S. I must not forget

to thank you for kind

& important help at Chan-

ff on the night of the fire

You I hear were the hero

of that hour — I was thank-

ful indeed to know that May

had such friends around her

& I remembered of old your skill

in plumming packing & moving

& here ah Fowlers were to the

May is happily settled now & Dor-

was able to be with her with

a stuff from Weymouth to and,

all were well C W